

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
EB-08 TRSE-00 /070 W
-----063949 202100Z /64

R 201617Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5118
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: THE PSD'S SELECTIVE OPPOSITION HARDENS

RE: (A) LISBON 1731 (DTG 081750Z MAR 78) (NOTAL)

(B) LISBON 1967 (DTG 161752Z MAR 78) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE PSD NATIONAL COUNCIL MET MARCH 18-19 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT THE JANUARY 28-29 NATIONAL CONGRESS. THE COUNCIL ATTACKED THE PS/CDS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMS AND PERFORMANCE TO DATE AND HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE 1980 ELECTIONS.

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SOUSA FRANCO AND THE NEW LEADERSHIP ARE DETERMINED NOT TO BE OUTFLANKED BY FORMER PARTY LEADER SA CARNEIRO'S EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVERS. END SUMMARY.

1. PSD OPPOSITION HARDENS: IN ITS FIRST SESSION SINCE THE PARTY'S JAN 28-29 NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE NEWLY ELECTED PSD NATIONAL COUNCIL MET MARCH 18-19. FORMER PARTY LEADER

SA CARNEIRO WAS ABSENT "FOR PERSONAL REASONS." COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON OPPOSITION STRATEGY. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ATTACKED THE CURRENT PS/CDS GOVERNMENT FOR:

- STEADY DECREASES IN REAL SALARIES AND TAX INCREASES IN THE ABSENCE OF FISCAL REFORM POLICIES;
- COST INCREASES FOR PUBLIC WELFARE AND NATIONALIZED SECTOR SERVICES (SPECIFICALLY IN TRANSPORTATION) WITH NO IMPROVEMENT IN THE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATIONALIZED FIRMS IN SIGHT; AND,
- AUSTERITY MEASURES WHICH AS A RESULT TO THE FAILURE OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY WILL EXCESSIVELY LIMIT INVESTMENT AND NEITHER CORRECT THE BASIC FLAWS IN THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE NOR BUILD A BASE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

2. EYES ON 1980: DURING THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS, PSD SECRETARY GENERAL SERVULO CORREIA ANNOUNCED THAT THE PARTY WOULD INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS IN THE UNIONS, WORKER COMMISSIONS, SCHOOLS, AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS, FARM COOPERATIVES, AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS TO BUILD GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT. BY CREATING A PERMANENTLY MOBILIZED PARTY MACHINE, HE EMPHASIZED, THE PSD CAN OFFER ITSELF IN THE 1980 ELECTIONS AS A REAL ALTERNATIVE--WITHOUT ALLIANCES OR COMPROMISE--TO THE PS/PSD "COALITION."

3. ASSEMBLY STRATEGY: IN THE ASSEMBLY, THE PARTY WILL CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS FIRM OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT BY PROPOSING GENERAL AND SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVES TO PS/CDS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. ACCORDING TO PARTY LEADER SOUSA FRANCO, THE PSD MUST NOT BE TEMPTED BY PS OR CDS OVERTURES TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT UNLESS THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM ITSELF IS IN JEOPARDY.

4. COMMENT: THE NATIONAL CONGRESS CONCLUSIONS--EVEN WITH FORMER PARTY LEADER SA CARNEIRO'S ABSENCE FOR ALLEGEDLY PERSONAL REASONS--REPRESENT A HARD LINE INTERPRETATION OF THE PARTY'S PUBLICLY TOUTED POLICY OF SELECTIVE OPPOSITION. PS/CDS OVERTURES TO THE PSD HAVE ALREADY BEGUN BUT SOUSA FRANCO AND THE PARTY'S NEW LEADERSHIP ARE DETERMINED NOT TO BE EASY TARGETS. NOR DOES SOUSA FRANCO HIMSELF APPEAR WILLING TO BE OUTFLANKED ON THE RIGHT BY SA CARNEIRO'S EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY MACHINATIONS REPORTED REFTELS.

BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LISBON02046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780123-0184
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780348/aaaabodu.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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